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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,152	09/17/2003	Kentaroh Aoki	0717-0514P	4171
2292	7590	03/22/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			AKKAPEDDI, PRASAD R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/664,152	AOKI, KENTAROH
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Prasad R Akkapeddi	2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/17/2003</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 7 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuya et al. (Kazuya) (JP 11-142841) (Applicant disclosed prior art in the IDS PTO-1449).

As to claim 1: Kazuya discloses a backlight unit (Fig. 1) comprising a linear light source (4), a light guide plate (5), a light reducing member (conductive film, 1) that is capable of transmitting light (since the light is transmits through the

film and is reflected by the reflection sheet, 3). Kazuya depicts in Fig. 1, that light source (4) is input to an end side of the light guide plate (5) and is outputted through a broad side of the light guide plate. It can clearly be seen from Fig. 1 that Kazuya teaches that the light amount reducing member (1) is provided at the corner (joint portion) of the end and broad side portions and portions neighboring the joint portions of the light guide plate (1) (*note: Examiner considers the corner of the light guide plate as the joint portion and the portions neighboring the joint portions are along the broad side of the light guide plate*).

As to claims 3 and 4: Kazuya teaches that the light amount reducing member (1) is a conductive film, as recited in instant claim 3 and is electrically connected to the cover (6) (i.e., connected to the ground) (please see the abstract), as recited in instant claim 4.

As to claim 5: Kazuya discloses a liquid crystal display apparatus comprising a backlight unit (Fig. 1) comprising a linear light source (4), a light guide plate (5), a light reducing member (conductive film, 1) that is capable of transmitting light (since the light is transmits through the film and is reflected by the reflection sheet, 3). Kazuya depicts in Fig. 1, that light source (4) is input to an end side of the light guide plate (5) and is outputted through a broad side of the light guide plate. It can clearly be seen from Fig. 1 that Kazuya teaches that the light amount reducing member (1) is provided at the corner (joint portion) of the end and broad side portions and portions neighboring the joint portions of the light guide plate (1) (*note: Examiner considers the corner of the light guide plate as the joint portion and the portions neighboring the joint portions are along the broad side of the light guide plate*

as the joint portion and the portions neighboring the joint portions are along the broad side of the light guide plate). Kazuya also discloses a liquid crystal panel (9) on the broad side of the light guide plate (5), hence the broad side of the back light unit. The liquid crystal display device is capable of obtaining high picture quality and hence is capable of performing liquid crystal display using the light source light of the back light unit, as recited.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

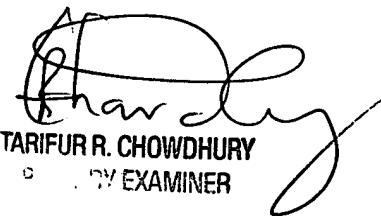
A search of the prior art did not disclose 'a backlight unit comprising a light amount reducing member in the shape of an "L" extending from the end side to the broad side'.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prasad R Akkapeddi whose telephone number is 571-272-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM to 5:30PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Prasad R Akkapeddi, Ph.D
Examiner
Art Unit 2871


TARIFUR R. CHOWDHURY
U.S. PATENT EXAMINER